

# KANZA SPIRIT

## 931ST AIR REFUELING GROUP



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January 2007

McConnell AFB, Kansas

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## THIS UTA

### Commander's Call

There will be a commander's call on Sunday at 7:30 a.m. at the Robert J. Dole Community Center. Attendance is mandatory for all personnel. Sign in will take place before the call inside the ballroom.

### Employer Award

Reservists and their family members are encouraged to nominate their employers for the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Awards. The nomination process opens on January 8, 2007 and will conclude on February 28, 2007. The goal of 5,000 nominations is a relatively small number, as ESGR estimates over 200,000 employers in America employ National Guardsmen and Reservists. To register your employer, visit the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve website at:

[WWW.ESGR.MIL](http://WWW.ESGR.MIL)

### Passports

Staff Sgt. Tanya Lange, 931st Mission Support Flight, is now able to issue passports. Appointments are required and are available Monday through Thursday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Photo must be taken care of prior to appointment by calling the photo lab at extension 3700. If you have questions, please contact Sergeant Lange at extension 5484.



**VOL. 12 NO. 1**

**COMMANDER**

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**DEADLINES**

The deadline to submit articles and newsbriefs for publication is close of business of the UTA.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Kanza Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government of the Dept. of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 931st Public Affairs Office. All photos are Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

The *Kanza Spirit* is mailed each month to all 931st ARG members on file with Personnel. Members not receiving their copy should check with their administration section to ensure their filed address is correct.

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year and Welcome to the January 07 UTA. Let me start by thanking you all again for an incredible 2006. It seems like 2006 was the year of inspections. The good news is we excelled in them all.

I have never been as proud of this organization as when I heard the IG team chief state that our UCI performance was in the top third of Air Force Reserve Command. Our performance was even more incredible when you stop to realize we had over 70 people on temporary duty during the week of the inspection - most of those deployed in support of the Global War on Terror. You "wowed" the IG with your programs, your patriotism and your positive attitudes. I can't thank you enough for the hard work it took to get this great result!

While we may not be "under the gun" for an inspection in 2007, we do have two more deployments coming up. One commitment is for GE and the other is an ops/maintenance deployment to help support Grissom Air Reserve Base - one month of which we will be the lead unit. That will be a first for us and an exciting opportunity. Please work with you unit supervisors and commanders to participate in these commitments.

In addition, we will soon begin practicing with the 22nd Air Refueling Wing for an Operational Readiness Inspection in 2008. This will be the first time since we stood up this unit that we will train and be evaluated along side our active duty host. We certainly want to show them that we are full partners in the inspection process. We may have an opportunity to exercise with them as early as the February UTA and I will want us to participate to the maximum extent.

Col. Tim Cahoon will assume command in the coming months and will be with us this weekend. If you see him, please be sure to introduce yourself and make him feel welcome. Thanks again for your incredible performance in 2006! Together, we will make 2007 even better.

Have a great UTA!

**Clayton W. Childs, Colonel**  
931st ARG Commander

## Who do you know?

The **Kanza Spirit** staff is looking for story ideas about 931st members who have unique hobbies or jobs, especially those that offer opportunities for unusual and interesting photos. Please contact Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell at (316) 759-3686 or kenny.kimbrell-02@mccconnell.af.mil with your ideas.

## UTA SCHEDULE

**Next UTA: Feb. 10-11**

*March 10-11*

*April 14-15*

*May 5-6*

# 'A PASTOR to some, a CHAPLAIN to all'

## 931st Chaplain's office back on track following high-ops tempo

BY TECH. SGT. JASON SCHAAP  
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS



### SPIRIT SPOTLIGHT

It is one of the smallest offices in the 931st Air Refueling Group. Yet it has been one of the Group's biggest supporters of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Chaplain (Capt.) J. Stephen Hicks was deployed in support of OEF when he was attached to the Group late last year. Chaplain (Lt. Col.) David Fulton returned just a month ago after a six month deployment to Iraq. Their predecessor, Chaplain (Col.) Charles Peters, started the post-9/11 trend as far back as 2002.

But the deployment dust is finally starting to settle. Including its newer assistant, Senior Airman Michael Abbey, the Chaplain's Office will be manned three strong by the January Unit Training Assembly.

Chaplain Hicks has been keeping the faith and administrative fire burning in Chap. Fulton's absence and is looking forward to more continuity. Chaplains like to get out and visit people, he said, and Fulton's return will hopefully bring more face time with Group members.

Capt. Hicks is quick to point out that although he and Lt. Col. Fulton are Protestant chaplains their interaction with Airmen is not limited to Protestant issues. Department of Defense chaplains

protect the religious freedoms of all servicemembers.

"We have a saying," Chap. Hicks said. "A pastor to some, a chaplain to all."

Any Airmen with any belief system can approach a chaplain with concerns. Still, counseling has been one of the more underused services of his office, Capt. Hicks said. It is a service that comes with a confidentiality guarantee unique to chaplains too. What is said to a chaplain stays with a chaplain.

"100 percent of what (Airmen) say can't go beyond me," Chap. Hicks said. He and other chaplains only go to Air Force leaders with an Airman's issue if that Airman asks them to.

Ensuring Airmen have opportunities to exercise their religious freedoms is another part of a chaplain's responsibility. Ultimately, the mission takes precedence, Capt. Hicks said, but leaders are highly encouraged to allow Airmen reasonable opportunities to attend chapel services and other religious functions.

The next 931st chapel service is scheduled for Sunday of the February UTA at 7:45 a.m. And now with the deployment dust settled, Hicks said that service will be scheduled for that time for many UTA Sundays to come.

Chaplain (Capt.) J. Stephen Hicks has served in the Air Force Reserve for more than three and a half years. Including two years as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee with the 22nd Air Refueling Wing. Capt. Hicks currently attends the University of Kansas and is pursuing a Master of Science in Counseling Psychology degree.

**Job Title:** Chaplain **Hometown:** Bloomington, Ind.

**Civilian Job:** St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church

**Favorite way to relax:** Running, Reading and drinking coffee

**Most influential person in my life:** My wife. She continues to challenge me to live with authenticity and no regrets!

**If I won \$1 million, I would:** Buy a summer house on Croatia's Northern Dalmation Coast, close to Venice, Italy.

**What I'm listening to now:** Bon Jovi is always appropriate

**What I'm reading now:** Spiritual Practices for Everyday Life; Counseling theories and techniques

# Back In The Saddle Again:

BY STAFF SGT. K.L. KIMBRELL  
931ST ARG PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## 931st Chaplain Returns From Iraq

The 931st Air Refueling Group Chaplain recently returned home to Kansas after completing a deployment to Iraq.

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dave Fulton spent six months serving with the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron in Iraq and traveling to other countries within the Area of Responsibility leading worship services and observances, providing pastoral care and offering assistance to deployed Airmen.

Chap. Fulton registered quite a few miles in the process of completing his pastoral duties while deployed.

“My primary function was to provide support to our deployed members in all of our deployed locations, for this reason I did a lot of traveling, over 11,000 miles,” said Chap. Fulton.

The miles racked up netted the Chaplain some military air frequent flyer miles as well as some on the ground.

“I traveled by convoy, Blackhawk helicopter, Chinook Helicopter, C-130 (Hercules) and C-17 (Globemaster),” said the Chaplain.

The chaplain’s deployment had some positive moments.

“The high point of my deployment was a visit I made to the Women’s Center in Mosul (Iraq) early in my deployment,” said the Chaplain. “I met the director and shared a meal with them. It helped me to put a face on the operations we are accomplishing in Iraq.”

And a disappointing one too.

“My greatest disappointment in the deployment was when I realized I would not be able pursue an agenda outside the wire,” said Lt. Col. Fulton. “My commander made it clear



Chap. Fulton serves his granddaughter Morgan, 8, her first communion during his first service at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church after his deployment. (Courtesy Photo)

that unless there was a Red Horse mission outside the wire we were not allowed to go out (off the base). I had hoped to make contact with some folk so I could follow on when I got home.”

Lt. Col. Fulton made it a point to keep in regular contact with his congregation and family.

“One of my key ways of staying in touch with folks was through my blog ([www.pastordavesjourney.blogspot.com](http://www.pastordavesjourney.blogspot.com)),” said Lt. Col. Fulton. “I also emailed my wife daily and called her once a week. All of these were a challenge since I traveled so much.

They also made a point of staying in contact with the Chaplain.

“I had an outstanding pastor fill in for me while I was gone,” said the Chaplain. “The congregation did well while I was gone, they were very supportive of my involvement, sending many care packages and so on.”



Chap. Fulton smiles for a photo with family and members of his Church at Mid-Continent Airport in Wichita, Kan. shortly after deplaning. The Chaplain deployed for six months to Iraq and other locales within the Central Command Area of Responsibility. (Courtesy Photo)

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Dave Fulton Deployment 5 June - 8 December 2006



Lt. Col. Fulton with Chaplain's Assistant Master Sgt. Janet O'Keeffe-Hernandez



Chap. Fulton convoyed with the 557th ERHS six times during his deployment



Lt. Col. Fulton with Iraqi Soldiers



Chap. Fulton leading chapel service

## Air Force Reserve to get new Command Chief

BY AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON -- A reservist stationed here will become Air Force Reserve Command's command chief master sergeant March 8, 2007.

Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, chief of Air Force Reserve and AFRC commander, selected Chief Master Sgt. Troy J. McIntosh from among 10 nominees for the position. Air Force reservists from all categories - traditional reservists, individual mobilization augmentees, air reserve technicians and Active Guard Reserve members - applied for the command's top enlisted position.

Chief McIntosh has been the superintendent of the AGR Management Office in the Pentagon since April 2005. He will be the fifth command chief that AFRC has had since it became a major command in 1997 and the 13th person to hold the job in the Air Force Reserve since March 1973.

The position of AFRC command chief master sergeant is a three-year controlled tour at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. The duties involve communicating with the commander on problems, concerns, morale and attitudes of the enlisted force and, in turn, ensuring the commander's policies are known and understood by the enlisted force.

"I hope as the Air Force Reserve becomes even more of an operational force, the enlisted corps is given every opportunity to train and participate in all Air Force missions," Chief McIntosh said.

Chief McIntosh said he is excited about the continuing work of the enlisted force development team and how this will benefit all AFRC enlisted personnel by providing clear career paths for their future development.

He will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Jackson A. Winsett, who has served as the AFRC command chief master sergeant since November 2004. Chief Winsett plans to retire from the Air Force Reserve in March 2007.

Chief McIntosh entered the Air Force Reserve in 1992 after serving on active duty in the Air Force from 1981 to 1992 with tours in Holland, Italy and Georgia. During his career, Chief McIntosh's duties have included assignments in security forces and personnel as a traditional reservist, air reserve technician and AGR member.

Chief McIntosh is from Fresno, Calif. He is a single parent of two daughters, Tess and Kali. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in political science.



## 2006 a year of transformation for Airmen, their families

BY MASTER SGT. DANIEL ELKINS  
AIR FORCE PRINT NEWS

SAN ANTONIO -- In a year when Air Force operations around the globe helped positively impact countless lives affected by violence, intimidation and natural disaster, 2006 also served as a platform for evaluating how such missions can be accomplished more proficiently by capitalizing on training and technology.

Helping map Air Force operations in 2006 and into the future was the aim by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley, who established the service's top three priorities -- the war on terrorism, taking care of Airmen and their families, and recapitalizing and modernizing air and spacecraft.

Operations conducted in support of the global war on terror remained at the forefront of Air Force priorities throughout 2006. From Iraq and Afghanistan to the Horn of Africa and the Pacific, Airmen were directly in the fight, whether carrying out missions on the front lines or piloting planes from operation centers a half a world away.

Airmen in 2006 continued to strive in effectively executing mission needs with the greatest accuracy seen to date. The evolving enemy tactics used during wars in Iraq and Afghanistan demanded weapons that minimize collateral damage.

In October, the Guided Bomb Unit-39/B small diameter bomb was flown into combat for the first time by the 494th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron and its F-15E Strike Eagles while providing close-air support for ground forces operating in Iraq.

The success of missions flown by the MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle in support of coalition forces have made it one of the most sought after weapons by combatant commanders. Increasingly, deployed Airmen are developing a better understanding of joint operations while serving alongside their sister services in numbers far greater than ever before.

For many Airmen, their roles in Iraq and Afghanistan extend far beyond targeting and eliminating enemy forces. Several hundred Airmen began attending Army ground combat skills training in July at one of 14 Army training locations this year, preparing them for operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom deployments. These Airmen were assigned to duties outside their normal Air Force specialties, commonly referred to as "in-lieu-of," or ILO, taskings intended to temporarily augment Army mission requirements.

This departure from traditional Air Force roles developed a cadre of combat-ready Airmen possessing skills sets that continue to make a difference in the lives of those pursuing democracy. Among those roles is the Air Force's increasing involvement in provincial reconstruction teams helping rebuild Afghanistan. The Air Force-led PRT at Bagram Air Base was vital in engineering a new road system that will not only serve to connect several provincial districts, but create an infrastructure for establishing commerce that will allow the districts to be more self-sufficient. Airmen on both Air Force and Army PRT teams also were heavily involved in helping build schools, wells, and hydro-electric projects. *To read the rest of the story, visit:*

[HTTP://WWW.AF.MIL/NEWS/STORY.ASP?ID=123036306](http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123036306)

## vPC-GR

Air Force Reserve members can now request corrections to their awards and decorations or submit their personnel for an award or decoration online. You also can make corrections to duty history, apply for retirement, and request other personnel support. Log on to vPC-GR today and learn how to accomplish all this without leaving the office.



For more information or to register and begin accessing vPC-GR, log on to:

[HTTPS://ARPC.AFRC.AF.MIL/VPC-GR/](https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/vpc-gr/)

### Need AF Forms? Regs?

Service members seeking Air Force and Department of Defense forms, Air Force Instructions and other official documents can obtain them from Air Force E-Publishing online, the official Source Site for Air Force administrative pubs.

To obtain your documents, visit:

[WWW.E-PUBLISHING.AF.MIL](http://www.e-publishing.af.mil)

## v-RED

Virtual Records of Emergency Data are no longer maintained by the Military Personnel Flight. The vREDs are now maintained online and updated on the vMPF. Should something happen to a servicemember this form is used to contact your next of kin. It is recommended that 2 copies be made after updating the record, one for personal record to be kept at home and one for the servicemembers mobility folder maintained by the unit. Several things that can change and require vRED updates are: marriages, deaths, births, address changes and promotion.

### Reporting Statement

Reserve and National Guard members receiving Veteran's Affairs compensation or pension benefits at the time called to active service must contact a VA regional office to report the date of activation. Failure to report will result in possible overpayments.



[WWW.SEAMLESSTRANSITION.VA.GOV](http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov)

## UCI Superior Performers



After the recent Unit Compliance Inspection, superior performers in three categories were recognized by the Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Inspector General team.

### Superior Performers

Lt. Col. Susan Lehigh  
Master Sgt. Annette Brown  
Tech. Sgt. Roxanne Halenka  
Ms. Vickie Hayden

### Superior Teams

#### 931st AEF Reporting Tool Team:

Lt. Col. Trace McDermott  
Senior Master Sgt. Donna Lorenz  
Senior Airman Jennifer Huston

#### Family Readiness Team:

Master Sgt. Edwin Woolson  
Tech. Sgt. Victoria Wilson

#### Courtesy, Dress and Appearance:

Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Tarr

# Family Day at the VFW



Tech. Sgt. Randy Brown and step-daughter Kathryn Ragan, 12, created beaded ornaments that were attached to gift bags that were delivered to Veterans at the Veteran's Affairs hospice for Christmas. More than 100 giftbags were created. (Photos by Staff Sgt. K.L. Kimbrell)

CRAFTS! FUN! YAY!



Tech. Sgt. Warren Bearup and daughter Alexandria, 7, created gift bags while other group members and their families created ornaments and candy holders. More than 250 group members attended.

# WICHITA WEEKEND

## Wichita Thunder Hockey

**Jan. 5 & 6** — Friday: Wichita vs. Odessa Jackalopes. Saturday: Wichita vs. Oklahoma City Blazers. Both games begin at 7 p.m. and will be held at the Kansas Coliseum. Tickets are \$8-\$16. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit:

[WWW.WICHITATHUNDER.COM](http://WWW.WICHITATHUNDER.COM)

## Blues Ball

**Jan. 6** — Saturday: 9th Annual Blues Ball to benefit the Wichita Blues Society. Tickets cost \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door. The show begins at 8 p.m. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit:

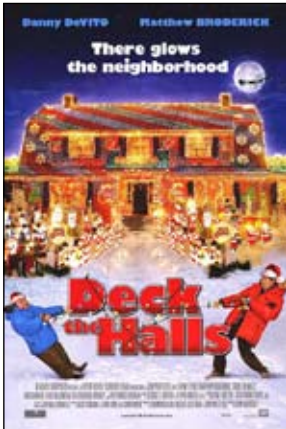
[WWW.THECOTILLION.COM](http://WWW.THECOTILLION.COM)

## Cosmic Bowling

**Jan. 5 & 6** — 7 - 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the Tornado Alley Bowling Center located at the Robert J. Dole Community Center. \$10 all you can bowl. For more information contact the 22nd Services Squadron at 316-759-6187 or by visiting:

[WWW.22SVSSQ.ORG](http://WWW.22SVSSQ.ORG)

# At the Movies

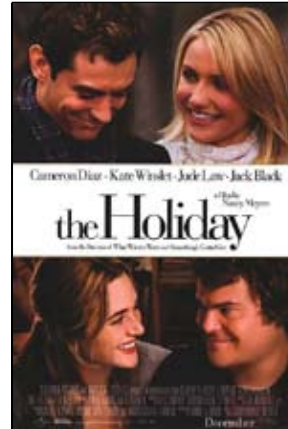


## Deck The Halls

**FRIDAY, Jan. 5 7pm**

**1 hr. 35 min.** Steve, a suburban dad and Christmas enthusiast, leads a well-ordered, well-planned, and well-organized life. His new neighbor, Buddy's latest dream - to create the biggest Christmas light display in the world, visible from outer space - turns Steve's world upside down.

**MPAA Rating:** PG - crude/suggestive humor, language



## The Holiday

**SATURDAY, Jan. 6 7pm**

**1 hr. 42 min.** Iris is in love with a man who is about to marry another woman. Across the globe, Amanda realizes the man she lives with has been unfaithful. The two women, who have never met one another impulsively switch homes for the holiday.

**MPAA Rating:** PG-13 - sexual content, language

*Movies are shown at the McConnell Air Force Base Theater and are subject to change. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Doors open 30 minutes prior to showtime.*

**McConnell Movie Line – (316) 759-4181**

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